

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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TAGS: OEXC, PE

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE AMERICAS

REF: STATE 253437

1. SEMINAR DISCUSSED WITH COMMISSION ON WHICH TWO
EX-PARTICIPANTS SERVE. ALTHOUGH ALL AGREED IN BEGINNING
YEARS SEMINAR SERVED VALUABLE AND USEFUL FUNCTION,
MEMBERS WERE UNANIMOUS IN RECOMMENDING TIME HAS COME
TO DISCONTINUE IN PRESENT FORM. IN THEIR VIEW, WHEN
SEMINAR BEGAN WAS INNOVATIVE AND RELEVANT TO LATIN
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AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES' PROBLEMS, BUT MANY CHANGES HAVE

OCCURRED IN LAST 15 YEARS AND SEMINAR HAS NOT KEPT PACE.

2. COMMISSION DIVIDED INTO TWO POSITIONS CONCERNING FORM FUTURE PROGRAMMING SHOULD TAKE: 1) ONE, PROPOSED BY ONE OF EX-PARTICIPANTS, RECOMMENDED REPLACEMENT OF SEMINAR WITH SEVERAL SMALLER, MORE HOMOGENEOUS SEMINARS ORGANIZED ALONG REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL LINES TO PERMIT MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS IN DISCUSSIONS OF PROBLEMS RELEVANT TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS. ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT: PARTICIPANTS BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG YOUNGER ADMINISTRATORS - AS WAS DONE IN BEGINNING YEARS OF OLD SEMINAR - RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ON RECTORS AND VICE-RECTORS; THAT SEMINAR ORGANIZER BE CHANGED EVERY FEW YEARS TO ENSURE GREATER DIVERSITY OF APPROACH; THAT PRACTICE OF HOLDING FIRST WEEK AT A LATIN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BE CONTINUED; AND THAT PARTICIPANTS BE MORE INVOLVED IN SELECTION OF THEMES. 2) OTHER POSITION, SHARED BY MAJORITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, RECOMMENDED SEMINAR BE COMPLETELY DISCONTINUED FOR NEXT COUPLE YEARS TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY EXPLORE WHAT IS BEING DONE THIS AREA BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. SUGGESTED FUNDS FORMERLY ALLOCATED TO SEMINAR BE MADE AVAILABLE TO COMMISSIONS ON REGIONAL FUNDING BASIS TO BE USED FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMING OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS. ALSO SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO USING THESE FUNDS FOR SUPPORTING LOCALLY-ORGANIZED SEMINARS OR CONFERENCES ON HIGHER EDUCATION BY BRINGING DOWN U.S. ADMINISTRATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THEM. FELT MAIN THRUST OF EMBASSIES' OR COMMISSIONS' ACTIVITIES THIS AREA SHOULD BE ONE OF REMAINING OPEN TO INITIATIVES FROM INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH NOW DEVELOPING THEIR OWN MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES RATHER ORGANIZING SEMINARS FOR LATIN AMERICANS IN THE U.S.
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